AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A saddle for an exercise equipment for allowing a user to perform an exercise in a sitting posture, said exercise equipment comprising:

a base fixed in place;

a support portion configured to support a part of the user's body such that at least a part of the user's own weight acts on a leg including a femoral region; [[and]]

a coupling mechanism configured to movably couple said support portion to said base such that a load acted on said leg by the user's own weight varies according to a relative positional displacement between a foot position and a position of a center of gravity of the user, and also configured to limit a movable direction of said support portion such that a direction of the relative positional displacement between the foot position and the position of center of gravity is limited to a direction of flexion and extension of a knee joint of the user; and

a control unit electrically controlling at least one electric motor attached to said coupling mechanism to provide a load,

wherein the saddle supports the user's buttocks as said support portion, and has a pair of curved recesses at its outer periphery, which are configured such that parts of femoral regions of the user fit said curved recesses, and

wherein the coupling mechanism is configured to limit the movable directions of the support portion to forward and backward directions.

Claim 2 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein said curved recesses are configured such that an open angle between the user's legs substantially corresponds to directions of flexion and extension of left and right knee joints under the condition that the user is in a sitting posture on the saddle, and places its feet at the foot positions.

Claim 3 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein said curved recesses are configured such that an open angle between the user's legs is in a range of 30 degrees to 70 degrees under the condition that the user is in a sitting posture on the saddle.

Claim 4 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein said curved recesses are configured such that an inclination angle of the femoral region of the user relative to a vertical direction is in a range of 30 degrees to 50 degrees under the condition that the user is in the sitting posture on the saddle.

Claim 5 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, comprising a first bump formed at its forward side and a second bump formed at its rearward side, wherein said curved recesses are provided between the first and second bumps.

Claim 6 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein a forward portion of the saddle is positioned to be lower than a saddle center portion with said curved recesses, and a rearward portion of the saddle is positioned to be higher than said saddle center portion.

Claim 7 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a backrest detachably attached to a rear portion of the saddle.

Claim 8 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a saddle-length adjuster configured to change a length of the saddle in a forward and rearward direction.

Claim 9 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a saddle-width adjuster configured to change a length of the saddle in a width direction.

Claim 10 (Original): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an angle adjuster configured to change an inclination angle of an inner surface of said curved recess.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An exercise equipment comprising:

a base fixed in place;

a support portion configured to support a part of the user's body such that at least a part of the user's own weight acts on a leg including a femoral region; [[and]]

a coupling mechanism configured to movably couple said support portion to said base such that a load acted on said leg by the user's own weight varies according to a relative positional displacement between a foot position and a position of center of gravity of the user, and also configured to limit a movable direction of said support portion such that a direction of the relative positional displacement between the foot position and the position of center of gravity is limited to a direction of flexion and extension of a knee joint of the user; and

a control unit electrically controlling at least one electric motor attached to said coupling mechanism to provide a load,

wherein said support portion comprises a saddle for supporting the user's buttocks, and said saddle has a pair of curved recesses at its outer periphery, which are configured such that parts of femoral regions of the user fit said curved recesses, and

wherein the coupling mechanism is configured to limit the movable directions of the support portion to forward and backward directions.

Claim 12 (New): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a backrest detachably attached directly to a rear portion of the saddle.

Claim 13 (New): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a saddle-length adjuster configured to change a length of the saddle in a forward and rearward direction, wherein the saddle is symmetrical along an axis in the length direction.

Claim 14 (New): The saddle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a saddle-width adjuster configured to change a length of the saddle in a width direction, wherein the saddle is symmetrical along an axis in the length direction.